Notes and Observations

EUPLAGIA QUADRIPUNCTARIA PODA: EVIDENCE OF LOCAL MIGRATIONS.—The Jersey Tiger is perhaps most usually caught fluttering in broad sunlight around flowers or bushes in late August or September in Europe, often in small congregations of up to a dozen. In the Le Havre district (North Central France) I have in two successive years taken it to light in damp habitats at the foot of southward-facing cliffs between Le Havre and Tancarville: on the second occasion (mid August 1971) as many as ten individuals came to the sheet in a single hour. In these two localities, which were comparatively sheltered and warm, searching at night for the larvae in early summer 1971 and 1972 was fruitless, but on 5th May 1972 a larva was found on nettle at night on rough weedy ground near the sea below the cliffs of Cap de la Hève; this site is exposed, bleak and quite treeless, and is separated by five and fifteen miles respectively from the two localities where the adults flew. Though I worked Cap de la Hève in August and September I never took the adult there.

Most collectors who have reared this species have done so from ova obtained from females; a few, however, have found the larvae wild, but those whom I have questioned say they have not found the larvae in the same place that they found the imago plentiful in. It would be interesting to know whether this is invariably so, which might be considered evidence that throughout its range this moth tends to congregate for sexual maturation and mating in localities widely separated from its breeding-ground, as in the extreme case at Rhodes. Its behaviour there has only been solved recently: it congregates in masses at Petaloudes, after migrating inconspicuously from its breeding grounds 26 km. away, as established, after a 15-month research, by R. Elger. (See R. Elger, 1969: Frieland-studien zøur Biologie und Oekologie von Panaxia quadripunctaria (Lep., Arctiidae) auf der Insel Rhodos. *Oecologia,* **2**: 162-197: Berlin; reviewed by Naumann (1968) 1969 in Zeits. *Wien. ent. Ges.*, **53**: 99-100.)—E. P. WILTSHIRE, 23 avenue Foch, Le Harve. 30.v.1972.

EUPLAGIA QUADRIPUNCTARIA PODA: UNUSUAL POLYPHAGY.—The food plants given by various authors for the Jersey Tiger are nearly all herbaceous: *Taraxacum officinale, Lamium album, Urtica* sps., *Nepeta hederacea, Senecio jacobaea, Borago officinalis, Plantago* sps., *Epilobium* sps., and so on; bushes mentioned by some authors are *Rubus idaeus, Sarothamnus scoparius,* and *Ribes grossularia.* The recorded foodplants have, to my knowledge, not hitherto included forest trees.

On 5th May 1972 I found a larva of this species at night feeding on stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*); *Rubus* and *Senecio* grew near by but no trees. The larva was put in a cage with a fine upstanding stinging nettle and aso a yellow archangel,

(*Galeobdolum luteum*), and some sprays of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), all in water pots to maintain freshness. The floor of the cage was of earth and still strewn with fallen ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) seeds from 1971, in a dry condition. On the first day of captivity the larva ate only these seeds, but on the six subsequent days it ate large amounts of oak and beech foliage and nothing else, despite availability of the foodplant on which it was found feeding. On 12th May it ate a little *Urtica* and *Galeobdolum* but quickly returned to beech leaves on which it fed copiously. On 14th May it became restless and stopped feeding; it buried a few days later. This larva's preference for two hitherto unrecorded foodplants, not available where it was found, seems to merit publication. The larva's polyphagy appears to be even wider than hitherto suspected.—E. P. Wiltshire, 23 avenue Foch, Le Havre. 30.v.1972.

Homoeosoma saxicola Vaughan (Lep. Phycitinae)—In late June 1964 I noticed signs of larval feeding in the flowers of Chamomile plants growing near the harbour wall at Par. In these I found two kinds of larvae, the one dipterous and the other lepidopterous. Over the next two weeks I collected a few further flowers for rearing purposes.

I noticed that while the diptera seemed to occur indiscriminately in all parts of the flower except the petals, the lepidoptera seemed to prefer the middle of the flower, and, when resting, in the hollow at the top of the stem just below the flower.

During August 1964 moths and flies began to emerge together, and with the help of the key in Beirne's British Pyralid and Plume Moths, I was able to determine the moths with reasonable certainty as *saxicola*.

In the summers of 1965 to 1970 I frequently searched chamomile flowers on many parts of the Cornish coast, but failed to find *saxicola* larvae again for six consecutive seasons, Whether the larvae were really absent, or whether I had just failed to find them for reasons of time or place, I do not know. However, in late July 1971 and throughout August I was pleased to re-discover larvae in quite a number of coastal localities, all within a few feet of the sea and some actually on the shore. Larvae were particularly abundant at Kiberick Cove, near Nare Head, and at Constantine Bay on the North Coast.

The larvae varied from light greenish to purplish brown, with dark dorsal and sub-dorsal lines, the dorsal being darker than the sub-dorsal. The under surface varied from pale green to pale brown.

The 1971 larvae had all become purplish brown and appeared to be full-fed by late August or early September and I was able to photograph them at this stage. Each larvae constructed a substantial blackish coloured cocoon with a few supporting strands of black silk, reaching about half an inch